

# The Cohort Graduation Rate

**Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability**

**Paul Bielawski  
2008 Conference**



# Michigan Graduation Rates

- Michigan has used the same methodology to report graduation rates since 1989
- Michigan is now using a “cohort method” of reporting Graduation Rates
- The “cohort method” follows students across their high school careers
- The “cohort method” will report graduation rates for each student group that can be reliably measured

# NCLB Graduation Rate

- NCLB requires that AYP include a graduation rate based on the percentage of students that
  - Receive a REGULAR high school diploma
  - In the STANDARD number of years
- AYP (including a graduation rate) is required for ALL schools

# Cohort Graduation Rate

- “Class of 2007” were first time ninth graders in fall 2003:

Number of 2007 graduates

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Number of first time ninth graders in fall 2003  
adjusted for transfers in and transfers out

# Dropout Rate

Number of Reported Dropped  
and not transferred +  
Number Missing and not Graduated

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Number of first time ninth graders in fall 2003  
adjusted for transfers in and transfers out

# Graduation Rates for 2007-08 AYP

- The Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application from CEPI provides the graduation rates used for AYP for the class of 2008
- The application will open in late winter or early spring of 2009

# Fifth Year Students

- Districts will be able to designate certain students not expected to graduate in four years
  - Students with disabilities
  - English language learners
  - Medically Condition or Diagnosis

# Grad Rate Clean-Up Activity

## Summary of Graduation Rate Clean-Up Class of 2007

		Number	Percentage
Exit Record Requests	Approved	7694	95.0%
	Denied	408	5.0%
Link UICs Requests	Approved	858	96.5%
	Denied	31	3.5%
Extension Requests			
Limited English Proficiency	Approved	44	86.3%
	Denied	7	13.7%
Severe Medical Emergency	Approved	66	80.5%
	Denied	16	19.5%
Students With Disabilities	Approved	445	63.5%
	Denied	256	36.5%



# AYP and Graduation Rate

- The AYP target graduation rate will remain at 80%
- Improvement in the graduation rate will substitute for meeting the target using “safe harbor”

# Subgroup Rates

- Subgroup analysis of Attendance and the Graduation Rate are only used for AYP if the Safe Harbor is used for Achievement in ELA or in Math for that Subgroup

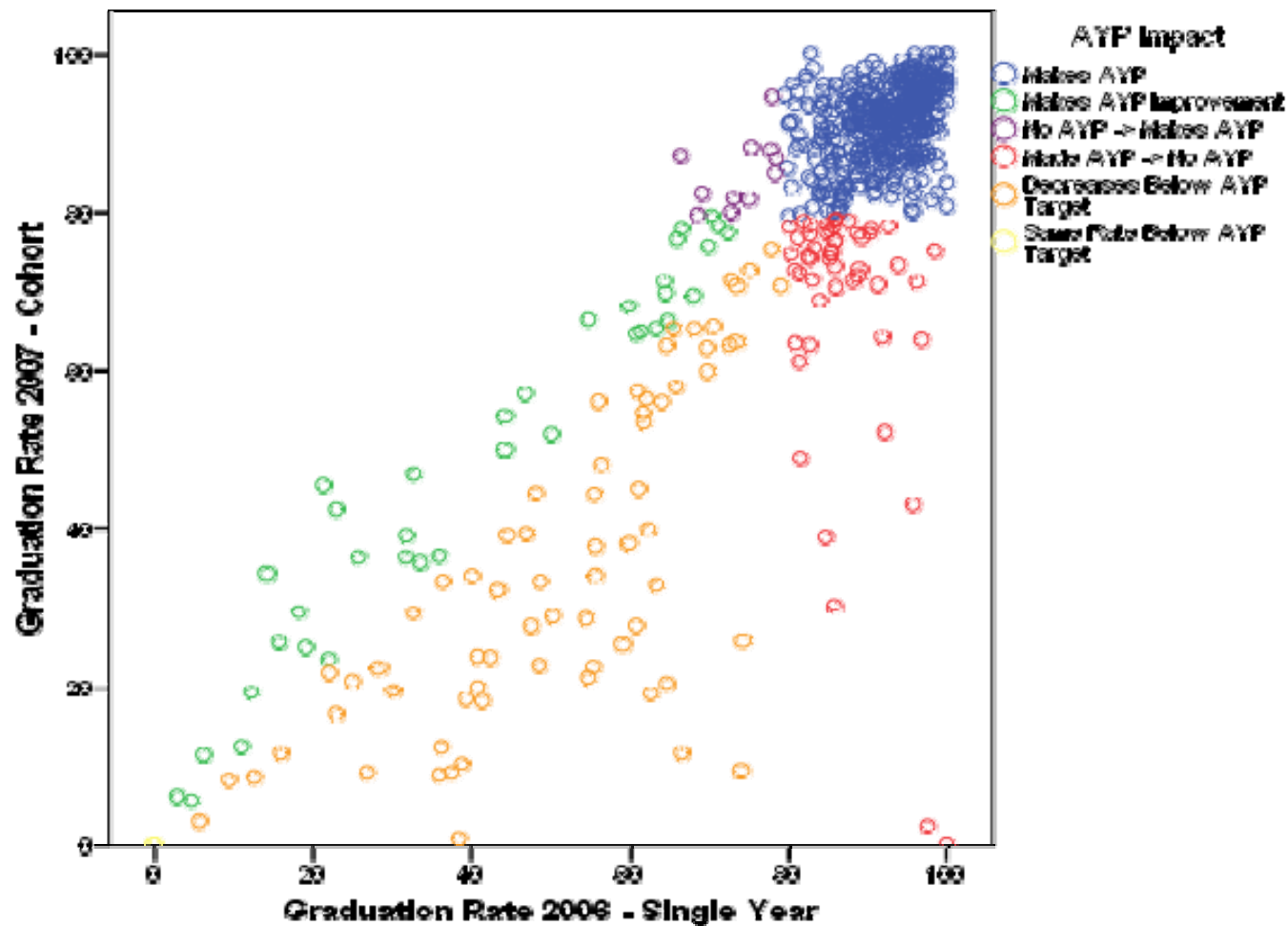
# Michigan Graduation Rates

- Single Year – 85.75%
  - Michigan's Old Method
- Cohort Rate –
  - NGA Method
- Average Freshman Graduation Rate – 72.5%
- Education Week – 66.4%

# Michigan's Issue – 4 Year Rates

- The Proposed Rules require a four-year on-time graduation rate
- Michigan's context:
  - New, more rigorous graduation requirements
  - Many “dropout recovery” programs
  - Districts receive state school aid until a student turns 20 years old
- Michigan advocates for a five-year cohort rate for all, not only on a case by case basis

# Impact of Cohort Rate



# Contact Information

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